

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A device for securely identifying persons and for permitting or denying a logical and/or physical access to a target means, comprising:
 - a portable ident medium having
 - at least one biometric sensor,
 - at least one input element and at least one output element,
 - a processor having a memory and a software
 - as well as a transmitting and receiving electronic and a counter station, which is arranged at the target means or cooperates with said station having,
 - a reading- and evaluating electronic for checking the authorization of the ident medium,
 - an actor and
 - a memory, wherein
 - an alternating magnetic field is generated for encoded, bidirectional data exchange or for conducting a challenge response, signals in the low frequency range are sent and wherein ident medium and/or counter station are programmable.
2. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the biometric sensor is a finger print sensor.
3. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~1-or-2~~, wherein the sensor is a sensor operating optically, capacitively, thermally or with radio waves.
4. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1-to-3~~, wherein the sensor is an area or strip sensor.
5. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the input element is a key or a key board.

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6. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the output element is a LED and/or a display.
7. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said device is made such that the alternating magnetic field has a reach of up to about 2.5 m.
8. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said device is made such that the alternating magnetic field can pervade walls, doors, safes as well as steel, metal, armoring and the like.
9. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the actor comprises a solenoid, motor, processor, software program or the like.
10. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the actor is in cooperation with a locking element or a clutch element and releases or engages said element.
11. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the ident medium is an accumulator cell of a mobile phone.
12. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the system comprises a battery or an accumulator cell and/or can be charged directly.
13. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein ident medium and counter station are wirelessly programmable.
14. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein ident medium and/or counter

station are locally or battery supplied.

15. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the processor of the ident medium comprises a decentralized data base being specific for the ident medium, having memorized biometric data.

16. (original) The device according to claim 15, wherein the data base can be changed via the ident medium.

17. (original) A method for securely identifying persons and permitting or denying logical and/or physical access to a target means, comprising the steps of

identifying a user by means of a portable ident medium, wherein biometric data of at least one user are detected by at least one biometric sensor and data and/or orders are entered via at least one input element and operating conditions are output via at least one output element, and wherein a comparison of the detected biometric data with the memorized biometric data is performed by means of a processor having a memory and a software, comprising a decentralized data base being specific for the ident medium and having memorized biometric data;

transmitting of a signal in the low frequency range via an alternating magnetic field in a bidirectional data exchange or via a challenge response by means of a transmitting and receiving electronic after successfully identifying an authorized user to a counter station being located at a target means or being in cooperation with said counter station;

checking the authorization of the ident medium or the signal transmitted by the counter station by means of a reading and evaluating electronic;

permitting or denying of a logical and/or physical access to a target means by means of an actor; and

recording date, time, identification of the ident medium and/or the user for each action.

18. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein ident medium and/or counter station are programmable.

19. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein ident medium and/or counter station are wirelessly programmable.

20. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 19~~claim 17, wherein the data base can be processed or changed via the ident medium by memorizing, deleting and/or processing further biometric data.

21. (original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the processing of the data base is made off-line, i.e., directly via the ident medium.

22. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of the claims 17 to 21~~claim 17, wherein the detection of the biometric data is performed by means of a fingerprint sensor which detects fingerprints according to an optical or capacitive method.

23. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 22~~claim 17, wherein the sensor operates optically, capacitively, thermally or with radio waves.

24. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 23~~claim 17, wherein the input is performed by means of a key or a key board.

25. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 24~~claim 17, wherein the output is effected by means of a LED and/or a display.

26. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of~~

~~claims 17 to 25~~claim 17, wherein the actor is a solenoid, motor, processor, software program or the like.

27. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 26~~claim 17, wherein the biometric detection can be switched off by the authorized user.

28. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 27~~claim 17, wherein it is not only distinguished between authorized and non-authorized users, but furthermore between users having different authorizations or different authorization hierarchies.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the reaction of the counter station depends on the authorization or the hierarchy of the user.

30. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 29~~claim 17, wherein the identification attempts and/or actions as well as accesses and/or the inhibited or denied accesses are recorded by at least one processor.

31. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 30~~claim 17, wherein the ident medium and/or the counter station are locally or battery supplied.

32. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 31~~claim 17, wherein the correct entering of a PIN is necessary for identification.

33. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 32~~claim 17, wherein the user-specific data memorized in the data base are assigned to a hierarchy, wherein ident medium and/or counter station only permit defined actions according to the hierarchy level of the identified user.